

REMARKS

In the instant amendment, claims 12, 20 and 22 are amended to more particularly recite the subject matter of the present invention. Claims 12-24 and 26 are submitted for further examination.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesies extended the undersigned representatives during an in-person interview conducted on September 27, 2001. In view of the discussions during that interview and the amendments contained herein, reconsideration of the rejections in this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants further respectfully submit that the instant amendment does not introduce new issues or new matter into the prosecution of the subject application and entry of the instant amendment is respectfully requested.

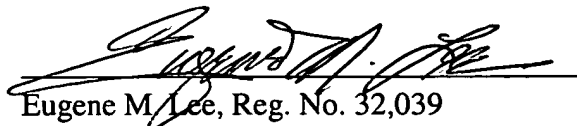
Since none of the prior art cited, whether alone or in combination, either anticipates or renders obvious claims 12-24 and 26, it is submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Finally, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested, and an early and favorable notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 10, 2001



Eugene M. Lee, Reg. No. 32,039
Richard A. Sterba, Reg. No. 43,162

THE LAW OFFICES OF EUGENE M. LEE, PLLC
2111 WILSON BOULEVARD, SUITE 1200
ARLINGTON, VA 22201
703.525.0978 TEL
703.525.4265 FAX